

Remarks/Arguments

A. Pending Claims

Claims 2-15 are currently pending. Claims 2-3, 5-10, and 12-15 have been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice.

B. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, and 12-15 because of informalities. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, and 12-15 have been amended for clarification. Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objections to the claims.

C. The Claims Are Not Indefinite Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 2 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 10 have been amended for clarification. Applicant requests removal of the indefiniteness rejection of the claims.

D. The Claims Are Patentable Over Trenkler Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a)

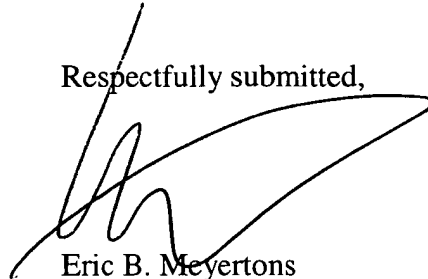
The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,811,154 to Trenkler et al. (hereinafter "Trenkler"). Applicant respectfully disagrees that the claims are unpatentable over Trenkler, however to expedite prosecution Applicant has cancelled claim 1.

E. Additional Comments

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fees are due with the filing of this document. If an extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If fees are required or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5333-02800/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric B. Meyertons
Reg. No. 34,876

Attorney for Applicants

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
(512) 853-8800 (voice)
(512) 853-8801 (facsimile)

Date: _____

1/26/04